

SBA Number : 08-01-0211

Release Date: Immediate

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## **JM Fiber Optics, an SBA 8(a) Business Development Program participant, named Minority Firm of the Year by L.A. Minority Business Opportunity Center**

**Santa Ana, CA** – The Los Angeles Minority Business Opportunity Center has named JM Fiber Optics, Inc. winner of the Minority Firm of the Year in the Technology & Science category. The company was awarded this distinction for developing a technologically advanced mass transit digital signage system called TransitVUE ® Transportation Passenger Information System, currently being used on Los Angeles County's Metro Rail system.

The firm will be honored at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual MED Week Gala & Awards Dinner being held February 22, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding minority entrepreneurs that play an important role in strengthening and maintaining the nation's economy by creating products and services that create jobs and improve the communities in which they live.

JM Fiber Optics is a value added supplier and systems integrator of fiber optic and copper based voice, video and data communication equipment. Another important component developed for their TransitVUE ® product line is FibrMat™, a high quality rail intrusion detection sensor mat that utilizes state-of-the-art fiber optic technology. This product has the potential to assist in the prevention of unauthorized intrusions, such as terrorist attacks and suicide attempts.

Ken Rivera, President of JM Fiber Optics says, "The Small Business Administration's 8(a) program provided opportunities that normally would be available to only large companies." The firm was able to grow through the use of SBA loans and by successfully winning an 8(a) contract; the SBA also assisted by providing government contracting resources.

The SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program provides various forms of assistance to foster the growth and development of businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. SBA assists these businesses during a nine-year tenure in the program to gain equal access to the resources necessary to develop their businesses and improve their ability to compete on an equal basis in the mainstream of the American economy. For more information about the 8(a) Business Development Program, please contact the local SBA office at (714) 550-7420.

For more information about the MED Week Gala and related activities, contact Maria Rivera, Director of Marketing, JM Fiber Optics, Inc., (909) 628-3445, ext. 10 or [mrivera@jmfiberoptics.com](mailto:mrivera@jmfiberoptics.com)